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Author(s) : K.Sivasankaram		Contents
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Abstract : Principles of photodetectors have been reviewed and the most common types of photodetectors have been contrasted. Various aspects of photocathode, dynode structures, voltage divider networks and anodes of photomultipliers have been discussed. Factors affecting the performance of photomultipliers and the noise sources have been described. The requirements of photomultipliers for different types of laser anemometers have been indicated. Some of the photomultipliers from various popular brands have been compared.		